Trade between India and East-European countries

*352. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of trade between India and East-European countries during the last three years, item-wise and amount-wise;

(b) how many MoUs have been signed by Government with these countries, alongwith the details thereof; and

(c) the areas in which Government are promoting trade with these East-European countries, item-wise targets fixed thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Bilateral trade between India and European countries during the last three years (1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002) amounted to US$ 376.60 million, US$ 387.88 million and US$ 468.51 million respectively. The items traded between India and East European countries include tea, coffee, drugs/pharma/fine chemicals, yarn/fabrics/madeup and garments of cotton and manmade fibres, dyeing/tanning/colouring material, processed vegetables, machinery, metallic and non-metallic manufactures, etc.

(b) Based on the priorities attached with the India-East Europe trade, bilateral MoUs have been signed between the concerned Indian agencies like ECGC, Exim Bank, ITPO, NCTI, etc. and their East European counterparts in the areas of information exchange, trade fair facilitation, export credit and guarantee, insurance, etc. These MoUs would facilitate as enabling mechanism to promote bilateral trade and investment.

(c) Although no item-wise targets have been set for trade with East Europe, some of the priority sectors identified for promoting trade with East European countries include Engineering/Automobiles, Software/IT, Bio-technology, Drugs and pharma, Food processing and Textiles/Leather products.

Assessment of demand of water in towns of Gujarat

*353. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state: